

The Great War—1022nd Day

Big Gun Duel Continues on West Front

Lull in Infantry Action, French and British Holding Gains

Germans Admit Loss of Bullecourt

Hindenburg Believed to Have Completed Destruction of Lens

London, May 18.—There was a lull over the entire fighting front in Northern France to-day. The bombardments of the hostile artillery at points rose in volume, particularly on the Arras front, and there were clashes of patrols and partial attacks, but no major infantry actions.

The British remained in undisturbed possession of Bullecourt, the loss of which Berlin admits. The German official statement, however, says the village was evacuated "according to command" twenty-four hours before Haig's men occupied the last German posts. The violence of the two weeks' battle for this hamlet, through which the old Hindenburg line happened to run, is indicated by the German reference to the ruins of the "former" village of Bullecourt.

That the British have pushed on well east of Gavrelle is revealed in the Berlin statement, which mentions the repulse of an attack on the Gavrelle-Fresnoy road. The British War Office reports the dispersal by artillery fire of enemy formations on the Arras-Cambrai road and northeast of Fresnoy, which the Germans still hold.

French Repel Attacks
Action on the French front was confined to cannonades and minor infantry engagements last night. Paris reports the repulse of several German thrusts around Craonne, and Berlin chronicles French failures in the same sector, as well as the storming of a French trench near La Royere farm and the capture of 150 prisoners. The big guns are busy southwest of Laon and in the Champagne, but there is no such drum-fire as precedes an offensive.

The rainy weather on the British front has turned the battlefield into a mass of mud, practically precluding infantry attacks and affording the Germans an opportunity to retire to previously prepared defense lines, if they are ready to do so. Some observers here believe that they are. With Bullecourt in British possession there is a pronounced breach in the original German double line of concrete trenches, and at best the Oppy line, parts of which Hindenburg still holds to the north, is only a temporary switch system.

Must Fall Back to Wotan Line
If there is a German withdrawal it must continue to the Quant-Drocourt-Wotan line, the last remaining defense system before Douai. This would mean the evacuation of Lens, the French coal city, but the fires there have been burning for weeks and the destruction of the town now must be practically complete. Though the Germans cannot take all the coal out of the ground, they have undoubtedly rendered the mines useless for the present.

Some critics declare that the Germans intend a withdrawal to the Siegfried line, which connects with the Wotan line at Quant, runs southward before Cambrai, past St. Quentin and around Laon on the north bank of the Ailette River. They would probably give up St. Quentin and retire to the strong hill positions back of it. All through this sector fires have sprung up, suggesting the same campaign of devastation which preceded the former Hindenburg retreat. The Siegfried line, on which Hindenburg intended to stand before the battle of Arras began, is much stronger than the Wotan system, which has only been building for a few months. The Wotan line is all that protects Douai, the British objective, if the Oppy line is relinquished.

Official Statements

Western Front

British
London, May 18.—The official communication issued to-night says:
Hostile activity has been somewhat more active than usual during the day in the neighborhood of Gavrelle and Lens. Our artillery has successfully engaged bodies of German troops on the Arras-Cambrai road and northeast of Fresnoy.

French

Paris, May 18.—The War Office communication issued this evening says:
The day was comparatively quiet. No action by the infantry was reported. Intermittent cannonading took place on most of the front. It was rather violent to the north of Neuville-sur-Marais, toward the Moisy farm and in the Mont Cornillet sector. Belgian Communication.—On the whole of the Belgian front the night was quiet. In the region of Steenstraete and Hettas, however, the fighting by means of trench artillery was rather spirited. On both sides of the line the Belgians made considerable reciprocal bombardments took place. Army of the Orient.—On the 17th instant local fighting took place in the region of Monastir and in the Cerna bend. On the whole of the front moderately spirited activity was reported.

Attacks of Sarraill Are Beaten Back

Germans Reinforce Bulgarians on Macedonian Front; Air Attack on Vodena

London, May 18.—Except for the hundred mile bombardment on the Macedonian front, the fighting in the Balkans to-day was confined to local attacks by the Allies. Both Vienna and Sofia report heavy combats yesterday in which General Sarraill's troops were beaten back.

That strong German forces are supporting the Bulgarians in their defense is revealed by the Berlin bulletin announcing the repulse of French attacks in the loop of the Cerna on both sides of Mahovo, after a six-day cannonade. East Prussian and Silesian battalions and contingents are mentioned as having distinguished themselves.

The official statement from Sofia declares that French troops attacking Hill 1248, north of Monastir, after extensive artillery preparation, succeeded in places in getting a foothold in the Bulgarian trenches, but were expelled again by a bayonet charge. Four officers and ninety men of the 34th French Colonial Regiment of light infantry were made prisoner. A dispatch from Salonica states that a few days ago German airplanes dropped forty shells on the open town of Vodena, forty-five miles northwest of Salonica, killing seventeen persons and wounding twenty-eight.

Russians in Galicia, Block Teuton Charge

Sweeping Mass Attack Near Vladimir-Volynski Is Beaten Back

London, May 18.—Russian troops last night met and defeated a German attempt to take the offensive on the Galician front, according to official dispatches by wireless received here to-day from Petrograd. The assault, which is described as a "sweeping attack," was delivered in the neighborhood of Vladimir-Volynski, the town where the borders of Russia, Poland and Galicia meet, and though pressed by strong Teuton forces in mass formation it was thrown back by the Russian barrage, together with machine gun and rifle fire. General Brusiloff commands on this front.

There was also German activity toward Kovel, further north, where the Russian lines were subjected to intense mine and bomb throwing fire. From Mesopotamia the desertion of Russian graves and "ferocious" mutilation of the dead by Kurdish irregulars is reported in the Khankin region. In the Caucasus a Turkish company was repulsed near Oğdoff.

A New Way of Doing Your Bit

Father Van Quentin is not always able to stand when the picture show orchestra strikes up the national anthem, but he does his bit. He holds his wife's coat and gloves and parasol and handkerchief and pocketbook while she stands up. —The Kansas City Star.

German

Berlin, May 18.—The War Office communication issued this evening says:
In the West there has been lively fighting activity at isolated places.

The text of the headquarters statement today says:
Western Theatre.—Group of Prince Rupprecht, Arras Front.—Artillery fire on both sides of the Scarpe again increased. An English attack launched after midnight on the Gavrelle-Fresnoy road was repulsed by hand-to-hand fighting.

The ruins of the former village of Bullecourt were evacuated according to command. About twenty-five enemy, who only established himself there twenty-four hours later.

Group of German Crown Prince.—Along the Champagne Front.—Clearer fighting conditions reigning, the artillery activity again was more lively, especially on the height of the Chemin-de-Dames and near Proville. After this increase of fire the French made partial attacks near Brie, north of Craonne, and near Craonne. All were repulsed.

A renewed enemy attack north of Sapienval against Hill 108 was unsuccessful. East of the Royere farm two companies composed of men from Berlin and Brandenburg stormed a trench occupied by the French May 18 and captured its occupants, consisting of more than 150 men.

Italy's Supply Lines in Tigris Valley Perfect

By A BRITISH EYEWITNESS
British Army Headquarters in Mesopotamia, April 16.—Nothing more efficient than the lines of communications and supplies serving the British forces in the Tigris valley in Mesopotamia can well be imagined.

An anti-aircraft gun and order days of the front have been evolved out of chaos. All that human agency can do has been and is being done to turn past failures to success and prevent future breakdowns in organization.

Communications by road, railway and river have been laid out and developed on a well-thought-out plan. Facilities for the loading and unloading of vessels at Basra are now on an adequate scale. Stores in abundance are available and methodically controlled. Medical equipment has been introduced on a lavish scale. An ample water supply is assured at every base and camp.

Sanitation has been taken in hand. An anti-plague crusade is being carried on, though any appreciable diminution of the fly plague can only be achieved by herculean effort and after long time.

The construction of public works, cold storage, wharves, docks, roads and railways goes merrily on, and so large a scale and of such solidity that it is not surprising if the inhabitants of the country interpret these activities as denoting a determination on the part of the British visitor to remain permanently in Mesopotamia.

Feeding of Troops Excellent
The feeding of the troops from the firing line to the base is excellent, and in the army canteens there is an abundance of purchasable necessities and luxuries.

From Basra to Sheikh Saad one may travel in considerable comfort in one of the "P" boats of the newest design, admirably adapted for the purpose, which is that of a ferryboat. These boats are used for the rapid removal of wounded when heavy fighting is going on. As what is wanted for this purpose is a much larger deck space as possible, the boats are built with a flat bottom, and the hulls are admirably designed, adequately manned and equipped with every conceivable comfort.

Sheikh Saad is the jumping-off place for troops, stores and ammunition brought up for the transfer from rail and light vessels to larger ships of sight and wounded going down to the base hospitals. Sheikh Saad itself has two large hospitals, one for Indians and one for Europeans, and also a large casualty clearing station. Elaborate arrangements exist for feeding the wounded all along the line and at the rail head, and though the journey at this point of casualties is mostly of quite brief duration, the facilities are as complete as those of a hospital in England.

During the storming of Sanna-i-Yat the first rear of bombardment began at 10 o'clock; the first wounded were in the field ambulance at noon, and at 4 in the afternoon were on their way down stream, their wounds dressed, their stomachs well filled, their cigarettes alight.

The hottest of the hot weather is now at hand, with all its attendant horrors and all the obstacles which Nature in Mesopotamia flings in the path of the military commander.

The soil, the rain, the climate, the floods, the flies and the heat combine to make the conduct of a campaign in the Tigris valley during the summer months a task of stupendous difficulty. The difficulties are being tackled and overcome with success.

Spain May Send New U-Boat Note

Madrid, May 18.—An extraordinary meeting of the Cabinet was called last evening on receipt of news of the sinking of the Spanish steamer Patriote, of 3,500 tons. The accounts said the crew was saved but that one sailor was severely wounded.

The government authorities were extremely reserved as to the result of their two-hour deliberation, but it is supposed the Cabinet decided to send another note of the most energetic character to Germany.

A violent clash between Francophiles and Germanophiles occurred here last evening as the outcome of arguments over the Spanish note to Germany and Germany's reply concerning the sinking of the Spanish steamer San Leandro. Several hundred persons took part in fist fighting and some of them used canes during the encounters.

Italians Repel Assaults; Take Many Prisoners

Rome Reports 6,432 Austrians Made Captive in Cadorna's Drive

Aided by British Guns

Batteries, from Tolmino to Sea, Resume Withering Bombardment

London, May 18.—While General Cadorna's troops paused in their drive to-day to consolidate their gains of the last few days, the Austrians flung massed counter attacks against them at several points on the Julian front. According to the official bulletin from Rome these assaults were without result, except to increase the number of prisoners held by the Italians to 5,432, including 143 officers.

Apparently the Italian batteries from Tolmino to the sea have resumed their withering bombardment in preparation for another blow. An official statement issued by the British War Office reveals that General Cadorna has had the assistance of British heavy artillery units in his offensive, and that they have inflicted great damage on the hostile positions.

"During their progress through Italy to the front," says the statement, "our troops received an enthusiastic reception."

Italians May Have Duino

Rome has not announced the occupation of Duino, the fall of which was reported from Turin yesterday. Rumors from Trieste, however, indicate that the Italians are nearing the main Austrian seaport and naval base. It is said that the banks there are closed and that the records of the government and important business houses are being hurriedly shipped to Vienna. If Duino has been taken the Italian armies are but twelve miles from Trieste, and in a position to continue their advance down the Adriatic coast.

Many of the prisoners taken by the Italians are from Austrian regiments recently reported on the Galician or Rumanian front, suggesting that the Rumanian Field Marshal von Falkenhayn, who is said to be directing the Austrian defense, concentrated strong forces from other sectors to meet Cadorna's offensive.

The fighting last night and to-day was chiefly on the Bodrez bridgehead on the east bank of the Isonzo, below Tolmino, on the Vodic and at Grazigna. The official statement from Rome follows:

"Yesterday our troops were engaged in fortifying the important position captured east of Gorizia and organizing communication with the rear. The enemy attempted, but completely failed, to hinder the work of our indomitable Gorizia army."

Surprise Attacks Failed

"Last night the enemy, under cover of darkness, attempted surprise attacks upon our positions on the bridges of Bodrez (on the Isonzo, seven miles southwest of Tolmino), on the Vodic, Hill 492 and at Grazigna. This morning the enemy brought strong reinforcements and again renewed the attack, which was particularly violent in the Vodic region and south of Grazigna. Shattered by our battery fire, the masses of the enemy were counter attacked and repulsed by infantry, who at several points surrounded their assailants and forced them to surrender."

"The number of prisoners thus far taken is known to be 6,432, including 143 officers. It is not yet possible to estimate the quantity of war material taken."

"All along the front, from Tolmino to the sea, the artillery continues very active. Gorizia again has suffered very heavy damage."

"During last night one of our airships, under cover of the clouds, reached the enemy's rear lines east of Gorizia without being observed and bombed his encampments and returned safely."

Brazil to Revoke Neutrality; Honduras Breaks with Germany

Rio Janeiro, May 18.—It is believed that Brazil will shortly revoke the decree of neutrality as affecting the war between the United States and Germany.

The Brazilian government severed diplomatic relations with Germany on April 11, and on April 28 a proclamation of neutrality in respect to the war between the United States and Germany was issued.

A dispatch from Rio de Janeiro on April 30 said it was expected in official circles there that the Brazilian government's declaration of neutrality was a mere formality intended to set forth the country's position exactly on the eve of the meeting of Congress. It was said that as Brazil had merely broken off relations with Germany and was not in a state of war with Germany she could not fail to declare her neutrality in conformity with diplomatic usages.

Further action was left in the hands of Congress which was to convene on May 3. There have been no reports of any decisive action by the Brazilian Congress.

Brazil Doesn't Fear Trouble with Aliens

Washington, May 18.—The Brazilian government anticipates no serious trouble with a large colony of Germans in Brazil and has already been assured of the loyalty of Brazilians of German descent. A note handed to Secretary Lansing by the Brazilian Ambassador, Domicio da Gama, and made public to-day, dealing with that situation, says:

"My government wishes me to rectify false reports and endeavor to modify the current impression in the United States about the concern given us in South Brazil by the Germans."

"The Almanach de Gotha puts the figure of German immigration in Brazil from 1820 to 1914 at 122,561. It is many years since the imperial authorities forbade their subjects to emigrate to Brazil. Emigrants to lands, where the language, laws and customs differ from theirs will naturally seek parts where their countrymen have already settled or the climatic conditions are most favorable."

Honduras Breaks
Washington, May 18.—Honduras has severed diplomatic relations with Germany, following the lead of Guatemala.

U. S. Will Join In Giving Passage To Danish Trade

Supports British Policy Waiving War Embargo Restrictions

U-Boats Spare Ships

Germany Also Shows Favoritism, Letting Denmark's Vessels Go Unmolested

(From The Tribune Bureau)

Washington, May 18.—Following the trade conference between the State Department and the British War Mission to-day it was learned that the United States will probably support the Allied waiver of restrictions which make Denmark the most favored nation among neutrals and Holland the second most favored.

Danish merchant ships, it was disclosed to-day, pass unmolested by German submarines all the way from their home ports to England and return, enjoying almost absolute immunity. On and other feedstuffs for her cattle and aware of the comparatively heavy trade in meats Germany enjoys with Denmark, the former country does not penalize Danish commerce, and permits Denmark to import cottonseed cakes and other foodstuffs for her cattle and other livestock from the United States. Denmark has enjoyed this immunity both from German submarines and British restrictions ever since the war began, and it was asserted in an Allied quarter to-day that the arrangement between Denmark and England was not likely to be disturbed, nor the traffic between Germany and Denmark. England receives from Denmark enormous quantities of butter, eggs and bacon, transported in Danish ships, their passage freely to English ports not being interfered with by German submarines.

Problem for England

England realizes, it was asserted, that she has the power to stop the commerce between Denmark and Germany by preventing Denmark from obtaining feedstuffs from America, upon which country Denmark is absolutely dependent for feedstuffs. If that were done, however, Danish commerce with England likewise would be destroyed, not by Danish action, but in one of two ways—either German submarines would sink all Danish ships, or else Germany would capture them, to-

gether with their cargoes, and the remedy sought to be applied by England would be worse than the evil.

In addition, it was declared, Denmark's trade in meats with Germany should be cut off, Danish commerce with the United States also would be paralyzed, as she would be deprived of money to make purchases, and secondly, she would be deprived of ships in due course of time.

The reason that Norwegian vessels do not enjoy a like immunity, it was asserted, is the fact that Norwegian ships have been carriers of contraband from England and Russia. Sweden has not engaged her limited merchant marine in the contraband traffic, and consequently such vessels as she has receive special treatment.

Devised Rationing System

The rationing problem was reported on in full to-day by a sub-committee consisting of Lord Eustace Percy, Dr. E. E. Pratt, Chief of the Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, and Wilbur J. Carr, Chief of the Consular Bureau. A report on trading with the enemy was presented by Sir Eric Drummond, solicitor general, and F. H. Halstead, Chief of the Customs Bureau.

It is understood that an arrangement has been agreed upon whereby the vital necessities of the smaller neutrals can be supplied without leaving a loophole for leakage to Germany.

The South American situation, while not fully discussed, is an important part of the major trade problem, as a large amount of tonnage is devoted to trade there.

U. S. Invited Into All Allied Councils

(From The Tribune Bureau)
Washington, May 18.—The Entente nations have invited the United States to accept membership in all the inter-allied commissions, it was learned to-day, and the matter is now under consideration by the State Department.

It is generally believed that the United States will accept membership on the Comité Internationale Revitalisant, the largest and most important conference body created by the Allies, but it is thought doubtful that this country will desire representation on purely European affairs.

The United States has invited the allied countries to create a commission to be permanently seated in this country, probably with headquarters in Washington and New York, and it is believed this suggestion has already been adopted. It was known that some of the members of the British war mission, mostly trade and munition experts, will remain here and will be joined soon by others from London.

Several of the experts attached to the French war mission also remained here after the departure of Marshal Joffre and Premier Viviani, and others are on their way from Paris.

The duties and powers of the inter-allied commission to be established here have not yet been defined, although it will have broad discretionary powers and will be in constant consultation with the committee sitting permanently in London. It is thought that the two committees jointly will control Allied shipping and supplies purchased in the United States. They will not in any sense have to do with military and naval activities.

Reichstag Will Meet July 5 for 3-Day Session

Brief Summer Legislative Period Ordered for Deputies

Ministers Go to Front

Hollweg and Zimmermann to Meet Czernin at Headquarters

(From The Tribune Bureau)

Berlin, May 18.—The Reichstag will reconvene on July 5 for a three-day session, which will comprise the summer legislative period.

The Imperial Chancellor, Dr. von Bethmann-Hollweg, and Foreign Minister Zimmermann left here to-day for German Great Headquarters, where they will meet Count Czernin, the Austro-Hungarian Foreign Secretary. They will continue the conference recently begun in Vienna when Dr. von Bethmann-Hollweg visited there.

The "Tagblatt" says it understands that the Polish question and details in connection with the proclamation issued on November 5, 1916, concerning Poland also will be discussed.

Asserts Germany Forced Soldiers to Aid War Loan

Amsterdam, May 18.—In the Reichstag budget debate, on Wednesday, Deputy Vogthorn, Socialist, attacked the government for questionable methods in propagating the war loan. He said that soldiers in the field had been forced to subscribe, and that similar pressure had been exerted on cooperative societies.

Herr Vogthorn added that the security of the investment and the rate of interest had been rendered doubtful by an article in the "Tagesspiegel," which said:

"Assurances by the government can only be given in the expectation of a large war indemnity."

In reply, the Finance Minister protested against Herr Vogthorn's statements, and assured him that subscribers would be safeguarded. He expressed his conviction that the subscriptions of the soldier were voluntary.

Deputy Cohn, Socialist, said that all military writers had counted, even before the war, on a starvation campaign by Great Britain and that it was therefore hypocritical to act as if Germany was surprised by these tactics. The

President here called Deputy Cohn to order, but the Deputy continued. "Granted that England did not starve right, before the war I never imagined we should be driven to war by Germany's fault."

Kaiser and Czar Had Secret Pact

Discovered by Witte, Who Compelled Its Cancellation, Says Russian Editor

Paris, May 18.—A long account of a secret pact between the Kaiser and Emperor Nicholas and aimed against France is given in the last issue of the Moscow "Russkoye Slovo" to reach Paris. According to the story, the existence of the treaty was discovered by Count Witte in 1905, while the peace negotiations between Russia and Japan were proceeding at Portsmouth.

Count Witte, furious at the disclosure of the Czar, informed the Kaiser that unless the pact was cancelled he would refuse to countersign the Treaty of Portsmouth. A German banker was interested in a loan to Russia to help the Czar, rather than have complications in his economic policy, the Kaiser yielded. Neither Emperor, however, ever forgave Count Witte.

At the beginning of the war Count Witte communicated the facts to R. Glinka, editor of the "Messager Historique." He bound the editor to keep the information secret until he, Count Witte, was dead and circumstances warranted the revelation of "Nicholas' inconceivable levity, or treason, or whichever you like."

To Aid Injured American Women in London Organize to Assist Troops of Entente

London, May 18.—A committee has been formed in London by the American Women's Club, under the chairmanship of Mrs. Robert P. Skinner, wife of the American Consul General, for the purpose of visiting and entertaining wounded American soldiers who have been serving with the Entente forces. One hundred and seventy of these men are known to be in the vicinity of London. It is proposed to have the wounded men visited regularly by one of their own countrywomen to cheer them up and look after their special wants.

Russian Truce Rumors Reported at The Hague

London, May 18.—According to an Exchange Telegraph dispatch from Amsterdam, it is rumored at The Hague that a truce is about to be arranged between Russia and the Central Powers as a result of the political changes at Petrograd. The rumor is characterized as of German origin.

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